

The Bloomfield Citizen.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

Local News and Home Reading

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Local news items, reports of Society meetings, etc., are solicited, and should reach the Office not later than Thursday P. M. to be in time for the current issue.

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BRIC A BRAC.

The Dahlia would surely be a very empress among flowers if it had but perfume equal to its beauty; even the rose might need to look to her for sovereignty. Florists have tried all their art to scent this lovely child of autumn but in vain; no fragrance can be developed or produced; God has denied the boon, and human skill cannot impart it.

A man passes for what he is worth. Very idle is all curiosity concerning other people's estimate of us and all fear of remaining unknown is equally so. If a man knows that he can do anything, that he can do it better than any one else, he has a pledge of the acknowledgment of that fact by all persons. The world is full of judgment days, and into every assembly that a man enters, in every action he attempts, he is judged and stamped.

When the room in which the family sits during the evening is left for the night, the chairs should be placed close against the walls. Sometimes a person goes back in the dark to get some article, the exact location of which he remembers, and if chairs were left in the middle of the room he might come to grief. Some of the accidents that occur in darkness might be avoided if the hands and feet were used more slowly.—Good Housekeeping.

Abraham Lincoln was a man never stirred by vanity. His freedom from this quality was shown in many ways and especially in a letter dated April, 1859, and lately exhibited at a fair in Lincoln, Neb. "As to the other matter you kindly mention," he wrote, "I must in candor say I do not think myself fit for the Presidency. I certainly am flattered and gratified that some partial friends think of me in that connection, but I really think that no concerted effort such as you suggest be made."

When "Thad" Stevens was a young lawyer in the Pennsylvania Courts, he once lost his case by what he considered a wrong ruling of the Judge. Disgusted, he banged his law books on the table, picked up his hat, and started for the door with some vigorous words in his mouth. The Judge feeling that his dignity was assailed, rose impressively and said: "Mr. Stevens!" Mr. Stevens stopped, turned and bowed deferentially. "Mr. Stevens," said the Judge, "do you intend by such conduct to express your contempt for this court?" And Stevens, with mock seriousness, answered: "Express my contempt for this court! No, Sir I was trying to conceal it, Your Honor!"

Madame Bonaparte, in her younger days once attended a state dinner, and was taken to the table by Lord Dundas. He had already received some of her sarcastic speeches, and in a not very pleasant mood asked her whether she had read Mrs. Trollope's book on America. She had. "Well, Madam," said the Englishman, "what do you think of her pronouncing all Americans vulgar?" "I am not surprised at that," answered sprightly "Betsey Bonaparte." "Were the Americans descendants of the Indians or the Esquimaux, I should be astonished; but being the direct descendants of the English it would be very strange if they were not vulgar." "Nothing more was heard from Lord Dundas."

For an original wood carving the sculptor goes to work precisely the same as though he were modelling for stone. He makes his clay studies and changes them as he thinks may suit the surroundings for which they are intended, and then he makes a plaster cast of them. This cast he sends to a wood-carving shop and the carver goes to work on it. A carving machine first comes into play. This machine has a plane full of little knives adjusted to the various elevations of the design. Then the plane is taken to the machine, placed over the block of wood and set in motion. In an exceedingly short time the outlines and exact elevations of the cast are "roughed" out and the block is ready for the finisher.

When Thaddeus Stevens was a Pennsylvania candidate for the Senate in 1867, it was rumored that he was an atheist. To a gentleman who wrote to him on the subject, Mr. Stevens sent this spirited denial: "All the statements which you said were made are false, as the author well knew, if he had any knowledge on the subject. I have always been a firm believer in the Bible. He is a fool who dares flout the existence of a God, as you say is charged on me. I also believe in the existence of a hell, for the especial benefit of this slanderer. I have said that I never deny any charges, however gross. I make an exception when my religious belief is brought in question. I make no pretension to piety (the more pious), but I would not be thought to be an infidel. I was raised a Baptist, and adhere to their belief."

Married people would be happier if home troubles were never told to a neighbor. If expenses were proportioned to receipts. If they tried to be as agreeable as in courtship days. If each would try to be a support and comfort to the other. If each remembered the other was a human being, not an angel. If each was as kind to the other as when they were lovers. If fuel and provision were laid in during the high tide of summer work. If both parties remembered that they married for worse as well as for better. If men were as thoughtful for their wives as they were for their sweethearts. If there were fewer silk and velvet street costumes, and more plain, tidy house dresses. If there were fewer "please darlings" in public and more common manners in private. If masculine bills for Havanas and feminine ditto for rare lace were turned into the general fund until such times as they could be incurred without risk. If men would remember that a woman cannot be always smiling who has to cook the dinner, answer the door-bell half a dozen times, and get rid of a neighbor who has dropped in, tend a sick baby, tie up the cut finger of a two-year-old, tie up the head of a six-year-old on skates, and get an eight-year-old ready for school, to say nothing of sweeping, cleaning, dusting, etc. A woman with all this to contend with may claim it as a privilege to look and feel a little tired sometimes, and a word of sympathy would not be too much to expect from the man who, during the honeymoon, would not (says an exchange) let her carry as much as a sunshade.

Rewards of Literature.

THE EXPERIENCE OF ELLA WHEELER WILCOX AS A VENDOR OF VERSES.

In a recent issue of *The World* Mr. Julian Hawthorne writes an open letter to the poets who send verses to the literary editor of that paper, in which he makes the following assertion and query:

Moreover, a poem can never have the justice done to it in a daily newspaper that it would receive in a magazine. Why not send all poems to the Century, Harper's Monthly or the Atlantic—all excellent magazines of good standing and circulation and anxious about all things to have a chance to accept good poetry.

As a representative of the poets, who have sent many poems to many places, I feel called upon to comment on Mr. Hawthorne's assertion and to reply to his query. Evidently Mr. Hawthorne has never been a vendor of verses, and I fear he cannot be kindly disposed towards the magazine editors or he would never ask, "Why not send all poems to the Century, Harper's or the Atlantic?"

It was my fate for many years to be dependent upon the sale of my verses for a living. As a natural consequence I tried every available periodical in the land, not once, but innumerable times. I think there were three or four consecutive years, when I sent a poem every month to the three leading magazines mentioned by Mr. Hawthorne. These poems came back to me as systematically as if moved by machinery in almost every case; although many of them are poems which have since met with most cordial approval and praise from critics high in authority. One was finally accepted by the editor of the Atlantic, who kept it in his possession a year, and on its publication paid me just half the sum I was receiving every week from the Chicago Tribune and various other newspapers. Surely this was not encouraging an author who wrote for bread and clothing, to "send all her poems to the magazines!"

St. Nicholas has now on file five accepted six years ago. Not one has yet appeared, although I read a proof a year since. The Century accepted one poem and used it after a year's delay; and it accepted another something like ten months since and declined another with a polite note, saying: "Our only reason for not using this is that we have enough accepted poetry on hand to last us six years!" The Century and St. Nicholas pay on acceptance, however, which makes the long delays in publishing less aggravating to an impatient author.

During the early years of my profession it was my yearning ambition to appear in Harper's Magazine. I sent the editors countless poems. They accepted a gratifying number. I have sent them five at one time, and they have accepted three and paid me most generously for them, but they all appeared in the Weekly newspaper and Bazaar and never in the Monthly Mag-

azine. They appeared, too, without my signature, greatly to my sorrow then. But for the fact that they were used at all and paid for I owe thanks, not to the Magazine, but to the newspapers. Mr. Hawthorne may thus be enabled to understand why poets annoy the literary editors of newspapers instead of sending all their poems to the magazines.

If a poet is ambitious for fame he may as well wait for the glory of an eulogistic epitaph as from the reputation to be derived from the appearance of his poems in these leading magazines. And the prices paid by them to all save a few—a favored few—do not compare with the prices paid by the many newspapers and syndicates. Besides this, I believe it a fact that a poem which appears in the daily newspapers is read by many more people than those which appear in the magazines. The daily journals are eagerly read in countless homes, where the magazines are a luxury not to be afforded.

Hoping that Mr. Hawthorne will pardon me for replying to his open letter, and assuring him that I will never molest his calm with the offer of any verses, I am respectfully yours, and his,

ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

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